

“Freedom to Walk in the Spirit”
Galatians 5:16-18

I. Walking by the Spirit will enable one to deny the flesh (v. 16).

- A. A person cannot walk by both the Spirit and flesh.
- B. One must choose to either walk by the Spirit or the flesh.

(Romans 13:14; Ephesians 5:15-18; Colossians 3:5-12)

II. Possessing the Spirit will create a battle with the flesh (v. 17).

- A. The desire of the Spirit and the desire of the flesh are in conflict with each other.
- B. The Spirit must overcome the sinful nature that we possess.

(Romans 7:15-20; 2 Corinthians 2:14-16; Ephesians 2:1-3)

III. Submitting to the Spirit will prevent one from being subdued by the flesh (v. 18).

- A. Keeping the Law was an attempt to accomplish righteousness by the flesh.
- B. Obtaining righteousness through the Spirit will allow a person to walk in freedom.

(Romans 7:4-6; 1 Corinthians 15:56)

Scripture References and Notes

Romans 13:14

But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to *its* lusts.

Ephesians 5:15-18

¹⁵Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, ¹⁶making the most of your time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit...

Colossians 3:5-12

⁵Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry. ⁶For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience, ⁷and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them. ⁸But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, *and* abusive speech from your mouth. ⁹Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its *evil* practices, ¹⁰and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him— ¹¹*a renewal* in which there is no *distinction between* Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all. ¹²So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience...

Romans 7:15-20

¹⁵For what I am doing, I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I *would* like to *do*, but I am doing the very thing I hate. ¹⁶But if I do the very thing I do not want *to do*, I agree with the Law, *confessing* that the Law is good. ¹⁷So now, no longer am I the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me. ¹⁸For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good *is not*. ¹⁹For the good that I want, I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not want. ²⁰But if I am doing the very thing I do not want, I am no longer the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me.

1 Corinthians 2:14-16

¹⁴But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised. ¹⁵But he who is spiritual appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no one. ¹⁶FOR WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, THAT HE WILL INSTRUCT HIM? But we have the mind of Christ.

Ephesians 2:1-3

¹And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, ²in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. ³Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

Romans 7:4-6

⁴Therefore, my brethren, you also were made to die to the Law through the body of Christ, so that you might be joined to another, to Him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God. ⁵For while we were in the flesh, the sinful passions, which were *aroused* by the Law, were at work in the members of our body to bear fruit for death. ⁶But now we have been released from the Law, having died to that by which we were bound, so that we serve in newness of the Spirit and not in oldness of the letter.

1 Corinthians 15:56

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law...